

source of great profit. This is particularly the case about Elizabeth City, where the transportation by water through the Dismal Swamp canal gives an additional outlet with the railroad.

To men of small means the intensive culture of the truck and small fruit business is attractive, and to the man of large means and a knowledge of the business in all its branches there is in eastern North Carolina an opening for profitable investment in this line, unsurpassed by any other section of the Union.

CULTURE OF FLOWERING BULBS.

For generations all the bulbs of ornamental plants that are produced in this way have been imported from Holland and the south of Europe. For many years our growers thought it essential that the tuberose (*Polyanthus Tuberosa*) must be had from Italy in order to have the best blooming bulbs. Years ago some experiments of the late Isaac Buchanan on Long Island, demonstrated that bulbs of superior quality could be grown on this side the ocean. But it was found that in the shorter northern season these evergreen bulbs could not be ripened to a blooming size from the offsets in a single season, and it was found that a more southern climate was needed. Experiments were made in Florida, but it was found that though the bulbs grew to a fine size there, the trouble was to get them to stop growing in time to prevent the flowering the same season, for this would render the bulbs worthless as the tuberose makes but one spike of flowers from a bulb, and the future bloom depends on the offsets made. Further experiments showed that the climate of eastern North Carolina was the happy medium between the short season of Long Island and the long one of Florida, and at once the business centered there. For years now the entire market for these bulbs both in America and Europe has been supplied by the growers of eastern North Carolina. Latterly, the English dealers have made an effort to promote the culture of the tuberose in South Africa, and large quantities were grown there, but their quality as acknowledged by the English Horticultural papers does not compare with that of North Carolina bulbs and the African bulbs are no longer wanted in London. But as fashion rules the demand for all classes of flowers, the tuberose has become less fashionable than formerly, and a decreased demand has caused lower prices, so that while the business is still fairly remunerative it is not so profitable as formerly. But more recent experiments have demonstrated that we have in various parts of the State, soils and climate adapted to the growth of other flowering bulbs that are in large demand by the florists near the great centres